

THE CRITIC-RECORD.

EVERY EVENING
BY THE
WASHINGTON CRITIC COMPANY.
Office, 443 D Street Northwest,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
One year, by mail or carrier, \$3.00
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WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 14, 1914.

THE DEVELOPMENTS of the past month or more have emphasized the necessity for an increase of the naval power of the United States. Even before the Italian Introglio and the Hata incident, the fact that we were engaged in a diplomatic struggle with Great Britain, in which the war as a possibility, was urged in behalf of the proposition that our naval armament should be increased. But there were plenty of easy-going souls who ridiculed the idea that Uncle Sam and John Bull were ever likely to do more in the way of strife than bandy terms of comely disparagement.

The more or less serious developments of the New Orleans episode, however, verified the judgment of those who maintained that alone alone probable, and the possible were to be feared in this connection; but that the unexpected was, if anything, still more worthy of consideration in estimating the chances of a foreign war. For the time being, optimistic Chauvinism lost prestige, its chief mouthpiece, Senator Lodge, was reduced to a pitifully fatigable source of opinion, maintaining such an able and distinguished silence as to attract the attention of the country, and help along the steadily growing belief in the generous expenditure of money in building up the navy. So when the Italian case, from which complications there is nothing what results may spring, has still further illustrated the soundness of the pro-naval position.

Should the little difficulties in which the country is now involved blow over with serious results, we shall not only again hear the voice of the famous socialist lifted up against the policy of Navy building, although, fortunately, his following will not be so large by many thousands as it was before the development of the episodes which have been the cause of the present Navy for some time past.

In this connection it would be well to consider a contingency which might materially change the aspect of a situation like that growing out of the New Orleans affair, or, for that matter, an episode like that of the Hata. In short, had Congress been in session when Russia made his "bluff" the possibility of war would have been increased many fold. For better or for worse—and for the latter, likely enough—the occasion would have been taken advantage of by those who are opponents in both branches of the National Legislature, and we should have heard such denunciations of Italy as would have gone far in themselves toward arousing the overwrought feelings of that country in an actual war. It is not a little improbable that that sort of thing would have been precipitated an armed conflict. Even the late expansion of youth, Mr. Roosevelt, in the heat of the occasion might have indulged in an explosion fraught with patriotic wrath and the odor of "villainous saltpetre."

Take it for all and all the country, especially the active, if not the more offensive strength, may congratulate itself that its foreign complications are not of a more serious nature than they are, and if it does not profit by its experience of this spring we may conclude that thriftiness and shrewdness in the Yankee character are dying out.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE men are going to vote in the election. It will be a hard matter to tell beforehand how their ballots will be deposited.

PERHAPS AS GOOD an example of official severity as has come to the surface recently is the action in connection with the selection of a site for the Lafayette Monument. The judicious rejoiced when it was decided that it should not be so placed as to obstruct the view of the Miras Jackson. But they were somewhat disappointed when it was set up at the southeast corner of the park, a position utterly out of keeping with aesthetic congruity. Weary of protesting, however, the public yielded gracefully to the situation, and proceeded to admire the statue without reference to its location and surroundings.

But now the authorities have communicated their seemingly childish determination to have their own way at all hazards. In other words, the space to the right of the Jackson statue, which was put in readiness to receive the Lafayette Monument before the opening of Congress in the matter has been turned into a flower bed and is filled with large plants which cut off the view of Jackson and his charger from Pennsylvania avenue almost as effectually as the Lafayette group would have done. It is true it may be claimed that the flowers to be had of the statue from either side of the flower bed give publicity to the scene. Nevertheless, when we consider the reasons given for the change of plan with reference to the Lafayette Monument, it is not easy to understand why the flowers were left as unobstructed as it was originally. It is possible that Senator Bate, who was so earnest in maintaining that the bronze Jackson should remain monarch of all in surveying, will find some difficulty in giving verbal expression to his feelings when next he comes to town and sees what has been done.

GOVER CLEVELAND stated in his speech before the Cleveland Club that "politics is something more than a lot of jiggery." The prohibitionists at least ought to agree with him.

THE CHILIAN and the Emeralda are in material respects about evenly matched. The slightly larger calibre of the Chilean's big guns would constitute a great advantage were the ships regular firebrands, but as they are only protected cruisers, a six-inch shell will do as much damage as a ten-inch one if it happens to hit. As for the Emeralda's torpedoes, they amount to nothing if the Chilean's superior speed enables her to keep out of range, and that is what is expected. Barring a chance shot from the Emeralda's main battery, the Chilean's machinery, the latter should be able to thrash and sink or capture the Chilean in a very short while. Her guns are better and her officers and men much more efficient. Nobody seems to be in much doubt as to the result of a collision, though there is a very real possibility of that chance shot. A projectile hurled from an eight or ten-inch modern gun has large capacities of harm, and must not be regarded lightly.

THE DAY HAS NOT BEEN the best possible for the Dumbline Club races. For weeks the weather has been brilliantly clear, and everything was perfectly propitious, but the first Dumbline day opened up raw, with southerly winds, threatening rain, and an unkindly touch was laid upon the festivity of the occasion. No doubt the events will come off in handsome style,

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NON-GRATEFUL BOY of Nebraska, in coming to sell on the occasion of the President's visit to Omaha, set a good example to several real Governors who have made bores of themselves in other connections.

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